

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A computerized trading system for trading Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) between traders associated with a plurality of credit granting entities, the system comprising:

a quote distribution system ~~[[/]] which contains information received from a plurality of credit granting entities, each credit granting entity sending unilateral credit information to said quote distribution system~~ indicating whether that credit granting entity is extending unilateral credit to other credit granting entities;

at least some of the credit granting entities having at least one maker screen and at least one taker screen associated therewith:

(a) the maker screen ~~permitting being configured to permit~~ a trader to send maker price quotation messages to the quote distribution system, the maker price quotation message indicating a bid price at which the trader is willing to sell one or more of the FRAs and/or an offer price at which the trader is willing to buy one or more of the FRAs; and

(b) the taker screen ~~permitting being configured to permit~~ a trader to view and accept dealable price quotation messages received from the quote distribution system; and  
the quote distribution system:

(a) determining which pairs of credit granting entities are credit bearing counterparties which extend bilateral credit to one another as a function of the unilateral credit

information, said determination being made as a function of at least two respective assigned risk factors including a volatility factor for each of the FRAs, the at least two of the assigned risk factors being different from one another; and

(b) sending dealable price quotation messages to each credit granting entity indicating the best available bid and/or offer that originates from one or more credit bearing counter-parties of that credit granting entity.

21. (Previously Presented) The computerized trading system of claim 20, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the determination is made as a function of the time to settlement.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of trading a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) on an electronic trading system comprising one or more computers, between traders associated with a plurality of credit granting entities, the method comprising:

sending one or more computers of the electronic trading system receiving maker price quotation messages from a trader associated with the one or more credit granting entities to a quote distribution system, the maker price quotation messages indicating a bid price at which the trader is willing to sell one or more of the FRAs and/or an offer price at which the trader is willing to buy one or more of the FRAs; and

~~one or more computers of the electronic trading system~~ determining which pairs of credit granting entities are credit bearing counter-parties which extend bilateral credit to one another as a function of risk factors including a volatility factor which vary for at least two FRAs and sending dealable price quotation messages ~~from the quote distribution system~~ to the credit granting entities as a function thereof, each credit granting entity being sent dealable price quotation messages indicating bids and/or offers that originate from one or more credit bearing counter-parties of that credit granting entity; ~~and~~

~~traders at at least some of the credit granting entities accepting dealable price quotation messages received by the credit granting entity with which it is associated.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the determination is made as a function of the time to settlement.

24. (Currently Amended) A computerized trading system for trading a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) between traders associated with a plurality of credit granting entities, the system comprising:

a quote distribution system, which contains information received from a plurality of credit granting entities, which determines, as a function of at least two assigned risk factors including a volatility factor for each of the FRAs, the at least two of the assigned risk factors being different from one another, which pairs of the plurality of credit granting entities have bilateral credit with each other, such pairs of credit granting entities being credit bearing counter-parties, the quote distribution system also sending information to the credit granting entities as a function thereof;

~~a plurality of credit granting entities~~, each of the credit granting entities being associated with at least one~~[[;]]~~ :

(a) maker screen ~~at which~~ configured to permit a trader ~~can~~ to send maker price quotation messages to the quote distribution system, the price quotation message indicating a bid price at which the trader is willing to sell one or more FRAs and/or an offer price at which the trader is willing to buy one or more FRAs; and

(b) taker screen ~~at which~~ configured to permit a trader ~~can~~ to view and accept dealable price quotation messages indicating bids and/or offers that originate from one or more credit bearing counter-parties.

25. (Previously Presented) The computerized trading system of claim 24, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the determination is made as a function of the time to settlement.

26. (Currently Amended) A computerized trading system for trading a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) between traders at a plurality of credit granting entities, the system comprising:

a quote distribution system ~~[[;]]~~ which contains information received from a plurality credit granting entities, at least a plurality of the credit granting entities including at least one: (a) maker screen ~~at which~~ configured to permit a trader associated with the credit granting entity ~~can~~ to send maker price quotation messages to the quote distribution

system, the price quotation message indicating a bid price at which the trader is willing to sell one or more of the FRAs and/or an offer price at which the trader is willing to buy one or more of the FRAs; and (b) taker screen ~~at which configured to permit a trader can to~~ view dealable price quotation messages received from the quote distribution system and accept a dealable bid and/or offer displayed on the taker screen[]; the quote distribution system determining which pairs of credit granting entities have bilateral credit with one another and sending information to the credit granting entities as a function thereof, the determination being made as a function of at least two assigned risk factors including a volatility factor for each of the FRAs, the at least two of the assigned risk factors being different from one another;

~~each of the credit granting entities displaying dealable price quotation messages on its taker trading screens which indicate which bids and/or offers it can accept as a function of whether or not the bid and/or offer originates from one or more credit granting entities with which it has bilateral credit as determined by the quote distribution system.~~

27. (Previously Presented) The computerized trading system of claim 26, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the determination is made as a function of the time to settlement.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of trading, on an electronic trading system comprising one or more computers, a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) between traders at a plurality of credit bearing entities, some of the credit bearing entities being credit bearing counter-parties which extend bilateral credit to one another, the counter parties extending bilateral credit to one another as a function of risk factors

including a volatility factor which vary for at least two FRAs, at least one of the credit bearing entities being associated with one or more ~~taker trading screens at which configured to permit~~ a trader ~~can to~~ trade the FRAs, the trading screen ~~being configured to display displaying~~ bids and/or offers made by traders at other credit bearing entities and ~~permitting to permit~~ a trader to accept certain ones of the bids and/or offers, the ~~taker trading~~ screens having a best dealable price area and a best market price area, the method comprising:

~~displaying one or more computers of the electronic trading system causing a trading screen to display~~, in the best market price area, only the best market bid and/or offer made by one or more traders at any of the credit bearing entities irrespective of whether or not the bid and/or offer originated from credit bearing entity which is a credit bearing counter-party to the credit bearing entity with which the trader screen is associated; and

~~one or more computers of the electronic trading system causing the trading screen to simultaneously displaying display~~ in the best dealable price area only the best dealable bid and/or offer which a trader using the trading screen is permitted to accept; and

~~permitting the trader using the trading screen to accept the best dealable bid and/or offer displayed in the best dealable price area but preventing that trader from accepting the best market bid and/or offer displayed in the best market price area.~~

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the counter-parties extending bilateral credit to one another also as a function of the time to settlement.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the best dealable bid and/or offer are the best bid and/or offer made by one or more credit bearing counter-parties of the credit bearing entity with which the trading screen is associated.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the best dealable bid and/or offer for a preset quantity of FRAs are caused by the one or more computers to be displayed in the best dealable price area.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the best dealable bid and/or offer of any quantity are caused by the one or more computers to be displayed in the best dealable price area.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for trading a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) on an electronic trading system comprising one or more computers, between traders associated with a plurality of credit granting entities connected together by a computerized trading system, the method comprising:

~~one or more computers of the electronic trading system~~ determining which pairs of ~~a plurality of~~ credit granting entities are credit bearing counter-parties which extend bilateral credit to one another without any ~~of the credit granting entity entities~~ knowing which of the other credit granting entities are currently extending credit to it, the determination being made as a function of at least two assigned risk factors including a volatility factor for each of the FRAs, the at least two of the assigned risk factors being different from one another;

~~sending one or more computers of the electronic trading system receiving~~ maker price quotation messages ~~to the computerized trading system~~ from individual credit granting entities, each maker price quotation message indicating a bid and/or offer price at which a maker is willing to buy and/or sell one or more of said FRAs to other anonymous traders having bilateral credit with the credit granting entity with which the maker is associated; ~~and~~

~~one or more computers of the electronic trading system generating a display~~ ~~displaying~~ for each credit granting entity ~~of~~ the best bid and/or offer that originates from one or more credit bearing counter-parties of that credit granting entity and permitting a trader to accept such best bid and/or offer.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the determination is made as a function of the time to settlement.



35. (Currently Amended) A method for trading a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) on an electronic trading system comprising one or more computers, between a plurality of credit granting entities which are connected to one another by an electronic trading system, said method comprising:

one or more computers of the electronic trading system determining which pairs of a plurality of credit granting entities are credit bearing counter-parties who have granted each other sufficient credit to trade the FRAs with each other, the determination being made as a function of at least two assigned risk factors including a volatility factor for each of the FRAs, the at least two of the assigned risk factors being different from one another; and

permitting credit bearing counter-parties to trade a plurality of the types of financial instruments with one another by one or more computers of the electronic trading system generating a display electronically displaying, for each credit bearing counter-party, of information concerning bids and/or offers from its credit bearing counter-parties.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein at least one of the FRAs is associated with a time to settlement and the determination is made as a function of the time to settlement.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the assigned risk factors for at least one of the credit granting entities is different than the assigned risk factors for at least one other of the credit granting entities.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein, for each credit granting entity, a separate risk factor is assigned to each of the FRAs, the separate risk factor being different for at least two of the FRAs.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein, for each credit granting entity, a separate risk factor is assigned to each of the FRAs, the separate risk factor being different for at least two of the FRAs.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein each credit granting entity has a respective set of assigned risk factors assigned to the respective FRAs, at least two of the sets of assigned risk factors being different from each other.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein each credit granting entity assigns its own set of assigned risk factors.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the determination of which pairs of credit granting entities are credit bearing counter-parties is made as a function of a calculated credit utilization for each of the FRAs, each credit utilization being

calculated for each respective credit granting entity as a function of the risk factors assigned to the FRAs by the respective credit granting entity.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the determination of which pairs of credit granting entities are credit bearing counter-parties is made as a function of unilateral credit granting messages generated by each credit granting entity and indicating which of the other credit granting entities it is granting unilateral credit to.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein each credit granting entity determines whether or not it will grant unilateral credit to the other credit granting entities as a function of a respective set of said risk factors which said credit granting entity assigns for each of the FRAs.

Claims 45-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) A computerized trading system for trading a plurality of Forward Rate Agreements (FRAs) between traders associated with a plurality of credit granting entities, the system comprising:

a quote distribution system ~~[[;]] which contains information received from a plurality of credit granting entities, each credit granting entity sending unilateral credit information to said quote distribution system~~ indicating whether that credit granting entity is extending unilateral credit to other credit granting entities;

at least some of the credit granting entities having at least one maker screen and at least one taker screen associated therewith:

(a) the maker screen ~~permitting being configured to permit~~ a trader to send maker price quotation messages to the quote distribution system, the maker price quotation message indicating a bid price at which the trader is willing to sell one or more of the FRAs and/or an offer price at which the trader is willing to buy one or more of the FRAs; and

(b) the taker screen ~~permitting being configured to permit~~ a trader to view and accept dealable price quotation messages received from the quote distribution system; and the quote distribution system:

(a) determining which pairs of credit granting entities are credit bearing counter-parties which extend bilateral credit to one another as a function of the unilateral credit information, said determination being made as a function of at least a respective assigned risk factor for each of the FRAs, the risk factors including a time to settlement, a volatility factor representing a measure of volatility of interest rates in the currency of the FRA and the time between settlement and maturity of the FRA; and

(b) sending dealable price quotation messages to each credit granting entity indicating the best available bid and/or offer that originates from one or more credit bearing counter-parties of that credit granting entity.

49. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising permitting traders at at least some of the credit granting entities to accept dealable price quotation messages received by the credit granting entity with which it is associated.

50. (New) The computerized trading system of claim 26, wherein each of the credit granting entities is configured to display dealable price quotation messages on its taker trading screens which indicate which bids and/or offers it can accept as a function of whether or not the bid and/or offer originates from one or more credit granting entities with which it has bilateral credit as determined by the quote distribution system.

51. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising one or more computers of the electronic trading system permitting the trader using the trading screen to accept the best dealable bid and/or offer displayed in the best dealable price area but preventing that trader from accepting the best market bid and/or offer displayed in the best market price area.